add, the practitioner of medicine. In these fields, in default of demonstrated truths for guidance, one must get along on the basis of the best judgments possible in the light of our present knowledge. Eugenic problems arise in which action one way or another has to be decided upon. As Galton pointed out, probability is the basis of eugenics, as in fact it is the basis of the much more exact science of genetics. I think that it may fairly be claimed that the scientific study of eugenic problems has yielded substantial support for several of the basic conclusions of the eugenist. As the difficulties attaching to such research are overcome, we may look forward to the time when eugenics becomes more worthy of the dignity of a true science, and when much of the alarmist and ill-founded opposition to it will have melted away like fog before the rays of the rising sun. It must be conceded that not a little of the criticism directed against eugenics is a very natural reaction to the ill-founded utterances of the eugenists themselves. The conception of eugenics burst upon the world suddenly. Some it inspired with enthusiasm to the point of intoxication and betrayed them, I am sorry to admit, into making many indefensible statements. Early in the history of the eugenics movement Galton stated that "the subject of eugenics is particularly attractive to cranks," and he expressed grave doubts as to whether the newly formed Eugenics Society was not doing more harm than good—doubts which I feel sure he would not have expressed could he have been acquainted with the present work of this organization. That object of Theodore Roosevelt's dread, the "fool reformer," has done eugenics a deal of harm. But writings on eugenics, I am convinced, are improving in quality. It should be the aim of the American Society of Eugenics to do everything in its power to place eugenics on a really scientific basis, to encourage research in this field and to disseminate only sound and sensible views on eugenic problems. The society should welcome members having wide differences of opinion. Sound progress in this field requires constant criticism, but while intelligent and constructive criticism is always wholesome, much of the opposition of the type I have discussed constitutes only an obstacle to progress. Misunderstanding, ill-grounded prejudice and antagonism based mainly on emotional complexes afford formidable impediments not only to carrying out practical eugenic reforms, but to the acquisition and dissemination of eugenic knowledge. These unfortunate impediments tend to deprive eugenics of the recognition and support required for its proper development. A great deal of the present opposition to eugenics has no real excuse for existing, but this opposition is a hard and obstinate fact which should be analyzed and understood if it is to be successfully overcome. I can not, of course, speak for all eugenists, nor all members of the American Eugenics Society, but I may express the hope that this society will make it known that, as eugenists, we are committed to no particular social, religious, political or economic creed, that we are no more concerned with the class war than the botanist or astronomer, that we are quite willing that Mary should marry Jack or any one else provided their progeny will probably not be imbeciles, lunatics or otherwise a burden to society; that we would like to have relatively more progeny from people with fine hereditary endowments, although we do not have the remotest intention of recommending any coercive measures for the attainment of this end; that we look to education and the development of eugenic ideals as affording the basic conditions for any noteworthy eugenic improvement; that we are desirous of encouraging the acquirement of sound knowledge of the biological factors of human evolution in the belief that the proper application of such knowledge will contribute fundamentally and fruitfully to promote the welfare of mankind. With these aims all intelligent and fair-minded people, I think, can not fail to be in accord.

OBITUARY

RAYMOND A. PEARSON[1]
1873–1939

DR. RAYMOND A. PEARSON, Scientist, Administrator, Educator, Planner, Builder, Statesman and Friend.

In a life span of less than the biblical threescore years and ten, Dr. Pearson earned the right to be designated as a leader in each of the six fields of agricultural activity set forth above. To few is it given to achieve that distinction.

Born in Indiana on April 9, 1873, he passed on at his home in Hyattsville, Md., on February 13, 1939, at the age of 66. In the meantime, he had served agriculture for seven years in the United States Department of Agriculture, ten years in New York State, fifteen years in Iowa, nine years in Maryland and, finally, again for three years and more in the Federal Department.

Scientist. While trained particularly in the science and art of dairying, Dr. Pearson spent most of his life in positions requiring administrative knowledge of many sciences and arts. It was his accomplished purpose to gain a personal knowledge of each of these sufficient to enable effective administration and presentation before legislative and administrative bodies.

[1] Tribute presented to the National Capital Chapter, Iowa State College Alumni Association, Founders Day meeting, March 22, 1939.

Administrator. Of Dr. Pearson's forty-four years of active service, practically all were spent in administrative positions. Beginning in 1895, the year after his graduation from Cornell University, he was assistant chief of the Dairy Division of the Federal Bureau of Animal Industry, and all positions held thereafter were administrative. In his case there was not the usual probationary period in less conspicuous positions. From this service in the department, he became successively general manager of the Walker-Gordon Laboratory Company, professor of dairy industry at Cornell University College of Agriculture, commissioner of agriculture for the State of New York, president of Iowa State College, president of the University of Maryland and, finally, special assistant to the administrator of the Farm Security Administration. During this period he also had been president of the New York State Agricultural Society, 1908–1911; president of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities in 1923, and chairman of its executive committee from 1919 to 1935. In recognition of this long and faithful service, the association voted him a permanent honorary membership on the executive committee.

Educator. After seventeen years in administrative work, Dr. Pearson became president of Iowa State College in March of 1912 and remained in that capacity for more than fourteen years to the end of August, 1926. He then served as president of the University of Maryland for nine academic years, to 1935. In this period of nearly 24 years there was a most amazing development in the curriculums of agriculture, home economics, engineering and science. Of this development President Pearson was not only a part but a recognized leader.

Planner. Perhaps the better word is seer, because without vision there can be no planning. Dr. Pearson saw visions and dreamed dreams and then wrote them down as plans. This was not a one-man process but a matter of the meeting of many minds on the problems and procedures of institutional growth. So Iowa State College was developed, with a plan which has kept it what the founders started, a beautiful as well as a useful institution of learning, in a more than beautiful setting. So, too, was developed the University of Maryland.

Builder. It is one thing to plan and another to build the plan into accomplished fact. Dr. Pearson did both. No greater tribute can be given. Each institution under his administration has permanent mementoes of his ability in making dreams come true in brick and stone and beauty. He built, too, in finer, more priceless and more enduring materials than these. He built spacious and beautiful structures in the imaginations, the personalities and the characters of thousands of the young men and women of America.

Statesman. The characteristics already set forth constitute true statesmanship. The ability to see, to plan and to build are the measure of the administrator whose works shall last and, while they last, shall contribute to the building of the minds and characters of men and hence to the greatness and stability of the nation.

Friend. What has been said has concerned Dr. Pearson primarily as an official of various institutions. There remains yet the privilege of paying tribute to Dr. Pearson as a man and a friend. Many thousands of students, faculty and alumni will remember with pleasure and gratitude his personal interest in their problems, his rejoicing in their successes, his sympathy with their misfortunes and his firm belief in better things to come. His personal interest did not cease with his successive transfers to new fields of labor, but he kept a warm place in his heart for the scenes where he had labored and the people with whom he had been associated in the years before. This characteristic of Dr. Pearson, perhaps more than any other, will remain long in the memories of the Washington alumni of Iowa State College.

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. ALFRED STENGEL, vice-president in charge of medical affairs of the University of Pennsylvania, emeritus professor of medicine in the School of Medicine, died suddenly on April 10 at the age of seventy years.

ADOLF CARL NOÉ, associate professor of paleobotany at the University of Chicago, died on April 10 at the age of sixty-six years.

PHILIP E. BLISS, president of the Warner and Swasey Company, Cleveland, manufacturers of astronomical instruments and machine tools, died on April 11 at the age of fifty-three years.

DAVID JULIAN BLOCK, chemist, director of the Block Laboratories, Chicago, died on April 8. He was sixty-four years old.

HENRY A. WISE WOOD, chairman of the board and formerly president of the Wood Newspaper Machinery Corporation, inventor of modern high-speed newspaper presses, died suddenly on April 9 at the age of seventy-three years.

AT a memorial service held at the Cornell University Medical College for Dr. Charles R. Stockard, president of the board of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and head of the department of anatomy of the college, who died on April 7 at the age of sixty years. The speakers included Dr. William Ladd, dean of the college; Dr. Herbert S. Gasser, director of the laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute, and Dr. James Ewing, director of Memorial Hospital, New York.

IT is stated in *Nature* that it is proposed to estab-